

Early Exposures and Later Effects in Life: Revisiting the Barker Hypothesis

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We have all heard the adage that "children are not little adults" but what does it mean for *their* adulthood when fetuses and children become exposed to environmental pollutants. What are the long-term costs and consequences of early exposure? The often-cited Barker hypothesis, which is based on observations of adult cardiovascular disease being related to early life exposure to poor nutrition, will be revisited in terms of the effects of early life exposure to environmental pollutants. How can assessment of early life exposure be incorporated into studies of adult-onset disease?